

Washington SmartBuying Partnership update

April 2006

Inside the April update:

- Purchasing card users earn \$878,000 in rebates.
- New contracts for fuel and ITPS.
- Central Stores offers Office Depot products.

New fuel contract effective May 4

State fuel customers can take advantage of a new fuel contract that takes effect May 4. The contract through the Department of General Administration aggregates several previous contracts. Six contractors will deliver fuel to eight regions in the state.

The contract will benefit state agencies, higher education and the 800 members of the state purchasing cooperative, which includes local governments, law enforcement, fire departments, schools and public transportation. The contract will also:

- Improve efficiency through the coordination of delivery schedules.
- Streamline the types of fuel that are bought.
- Support advancement of the market for biodiesel.

The new contract was developed with assistance from high-volume fuel consumers, including the departments of Transportation, Corrections, King County Metro Transit and the City of Seattle.

Vendors also contributed to the process, and worked together to help the state create the eight regions to reflect existing market coverage.

Other details:

- No one challenged the award of the contract during the protest period.
- The projected annual saving for the contract is \$2 million.

Contract manager:

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Purchasing card stacks up rebates

Program also allows users to track trends in spending

State organizations earned almost \$878,000 in rebates in 2005 through use of the purchasing card program.

The program allows state agencies, higher education and political subdivisions to earn rebates on a variety of purchases. Users are also able to track trends that allow for more informed spending decisions.

The user rebates of \$878,000 in 2005 were a marked increase from \$538,000 in 2004.

The Department of Transportation earned \$193,000 in rebates in 2005, followed by Washington State University with \$162,000.

Spokane Public Schools recently expanded its use of the purchasing card, which included higher spending limits and doing away with some purchase order forms.

"These changes further reduced the need for formal purchase orders, contributed to an 18 percent annual increase in our rebate amount, and increased the overall spend of the procurement card program by an estimated 25 percent within a one-year period," said Michael Binyon, a supervisor in the budget and accounting department of Spokane Public Schools.

Spokane Public Schools earned \$48,000 in rebates in 2005.

Training on use of purchasing card

General Administration, in conjunction with JPMorganChase, is putting on software training about use of the purchasing card. Beginner training is May 23 via a webcast. No pre-registration is necessary.

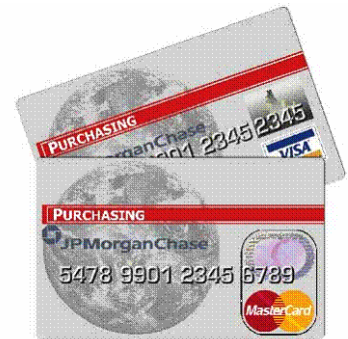
Intermediate and advanced classes are scheduled for May 17 in Renton. Attendees may bring a laptop for hands-on training.

For more information and for training registration:

<http://www.ga.wa.gov/Events/JPMCHome.htm>

For information on best practices and frequently asked questions:

<http://www.ga.wa.gov/PCA/PCard.htm>





New ITPS contract proposals expected in September

General Administration anticipates releasing a new solicitation on or about September 1, 2006 for an information technology professional services (ITPS) contract.

Until then, customers may continue to use the current ITPS contract, 32100. It remains in effect through June 30, 2006.

To provide continued contract coverage during the new solicitation process, General Administration will extend 32100 through September 30, 2007, or until such time as the new ITPS contract program can be implemented, whichever is sooner.

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Look up state contracts at:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ga/inet/pca/pcacoint.htm>

Grays Harbor paper available at savings

A new bulk paper contract that is part of the SmartBuying Partnership is achieving an average 7 percent cost saving in the base price for this product.

The contract (#09305) also makes the popular Grays Harbor paper again available to customers of Central Stores. The contract allows Central Stores to pick up paper directly from the manufacturer in Aberdeen, which lowers the overall cost.

Benefits include:

- Grays Harbor offers paper with a 40 percent recycle content compared with the industry standard of 30 percent content.
- A savings of 15 cents per ream of paper because of the Central Stores pickups and warehousing of the paper.

Central Stores distributes about 2,280,000 reams of paper annually.

More information about the contract is available from:

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Shop smart with Central Stores' Office Depot contract

Central Stores has a new partnership with Office Depot that will allow you to capture SmartBuying savings on your office supply purchases through a one-stop shopping program.

The previous program with Office Max ended in March.

Under the new program, you can place orders using the Central Stores website and shop for office supplies from Office Depot. You can also get those items that you have historically bought from Central Stores. Office Depot will deliver the office supplies to you on the next day.

Central Stores will continue to deliver its items. There will be a separate invoice for each delivery, unless you select the option of monthly invoicing.

This new partnership allows you to get all of your Central Stores supplies and take advantage of the new SmartBuying contract for office supplies in an easy to use one-stop shopping experience. Advantages of the new partnership include better prices and the ability to shop for SmartBuying "essential list" items.

These items will be identified in the catalog by a **\$** symbol. In addition, all of the copier paper carried by Central Stores is bought under a new SmartBuying bulk contract for paper. Central Stores paper products will also be identified with the **\$**.

Central Stores can provide state agencies with a monthly report showing SmartBuying savings achieved by buying through the Central Stores on-line catalog.

Please visit the Central Stores website for more details:

<http://www.ga.wa.gov/centralstores/>